

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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46

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 DHA-02 ORM-02

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ARA-06 EA-07 SAM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /097 W
----- 091060

O P 111509Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 786

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 719

AMCONSUL IBADAN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL KADUNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 6742

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE

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REF: STATE 265503; TUNIS 6667, 6643, 6601.

1. EMBOFF RAISED SUBJECT WITH CHIEF, AMERICAN DIVISION, MOFA MORNING NOV 11. LATTER SAID HE HAD JUST COME FROM TALKING OVER SUBJECT WITH OFICIAL HANDLING MATTER DIRECTLY.

2. EMBOFF PRESENTED USG POSITION PER PARA 7 REFTTEL, AND ASKED WHETHER RECENT MPLA DELEGATION VISIT TO TUNIS (TUNIS 6601) HAD ALTERED GOT POSITION THAT ALL ANGOLAN PARTIES SHOULD HAVE APPROPRIATE SAY INFORMING GOVERNMENT. MOFA OFFICER SAID MPLA DELEGATION HAD CHIDED GOT FOR PAST SUPPORT TO HOLDEN ROBERTO'S FNLA AND MADE PITCH THAT MPLA WOULD BE EFFECTIVELY IN CONTROL OF ANGOLA, AND THEREBY DESERVE RECOGNITION. MOFA OFFICER SAID DELEGATION WAS TOLD THAT GOT HAD NOTHING PARTICULAR AGAINST MPLA, AND HAD LONG SUPPORTED HOLDEN ROBERTO AS ANGOLA'S INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN FIGHTER FOR FREEDOM FROM PORTUGUESE. INDEPENDENCE HAD BEEN TUNISIA'S HOPE FOR ANGOLA, AND SHE NOW HOPES ANGOLANS WILL SORT THEIR DISPUTES OUT AMONG THEMSELVES PEACEABLY. TUNISIA CONTINUES TO FAVOR OAU EFFORTS AIMED AT BRINGING THE CONTESTING SIDES TOGETHER INTO SINGLE GOVERNMENT.

3. EMBOFF SAID HIS MAIN THRUST WAS TO EMPHASIZE THAT USG CONSIDERS EXTENDING RECOGNITION TO MPLA WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO HOPES FOR PEACEFUL, NEGOTIATED RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM. HE SAID HE GATHERED FROM WHAT MOFA OFFICER SAID THAT RECOGNITION OF MPLA GOVERNMENT BY GOT IS NOT AN IMMEDIATE PROSPECT, AT VERY LEAST. MOFA OFFICIAL SAID THAT, FRANKLY, DEVELOPMENTS "ON THE GROUND" WOULD PROVE DECISIVE. PRESENT SITUATION WAS CONFUSED AT BEST, WITH MERCENARIES INVOLVED ON ALL SIDES AND CLAIMS OF TERRITORIAL AND POPULATION CONTROL DIFFICULT TO SORT OUT. IF THERE SHOULD BE A MASSIVE MOVE BY NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT AND RECOGNIZE MPLA, GOT WOULD HAVE TROUBLE STAYING OFF BANDWAGON, THOUGH, HE EMPHASIZED, GOT IS NOT THE SORT OF GOVERNMENT TO RUSH INTO COMPLEX SITUATION PREMATURELY. HE ALLEGED THAT ALGERIA IS GIVING MPLA STRONG SUPPORT, BUT INSISTED THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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FACT IS HARDLY DECISIVE FOR TUNISIAN POLICY.

4. COMMENT: IT APPEARS GOT HAS MADE NO UNDERTAKINGS TO MPLA AND WILL NOT BE AMONG THE FIRST TO RECOGNIZE AN MPLA GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA. LONGSTANDING GOT TIES WITH HOLDEN ROBERTO WILL NOT RPT NOT SUDDENLY BE DISCARDED ALTOGETHER. SO LONG AS THERE IS REASONABLE HOPE FOR BRINGING PARTIES TOGETHER, TUNISIA

WILL WORK FOR THAT RESULT.
SEELYE

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